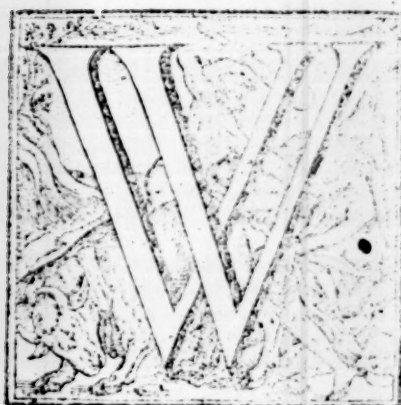


His Majesties Declaration to the Ministers, Free- Holders, Farmers, and substantiall Copy-Holders of the County of YORK.

Assembled by His Majesties speciall Summons, at Heworth Moore,
neere the City of York, on Friday the 3. of June, 1642.



We would have you to be assured, that Wee never intended the least neglect unto you in any former Summons of the Countrey, Our love, as well as Our protection, extending to all Our Subjects; But as you are a great Body, time and conveniency must be observed in your Assembling.

That you may know the generall Reasons of Our being here, you must understand, That when We found it neither safe nor honourable to expose Our Person to the tumultuous and licentious proceedings of many (which to this day are unpunished) who did disorderly approach neer Our Court at *White-Hall*, We trusted this part of Our Dominions chiefly to reside in; where, as most of the Gentry already have, so We assure Our selves the rest of you will give Us cleere testimony of your service and obedience, which Wee will never use otherwise than for the defence of the true Orthodox Religion professed and sealed in Queen *Elizabeths* time, and confirmed by the Authority of the Statutes of this Realm the defence of the Lawes and fundamentall Constitutions of this Kingdome (as the justest Measure and Rule for Our Prerogative, and your Liberties and Rights) and lastly, for the preservation of the Peace of this Kingdome.

As for Our own Zeale to the Protestant Profession, Wee referre all the world to Our daily exercise of, and Our Declarations concerning it, and execution of the Lawes against the Papists; so likewise Wee cannot but declare Our Selfe most heartily sorry to finde such Separatists and Schismatics, who presume, against Law, to soment new Doctrines and Disciplines to the disturbance of Church and State.

For the Law, it being the common inheritance of Our people, Wee shall never enforce any Prerogative of Ours beyond it, but submit Our Selfe to it, and give you, and all Our Subjects the fullest latitude of it, both for the liberty of your persons, and the propriety of your estates. And for an inviolable confidence and assurance hereof, as Wee take God (the Searcher of all hearts) to witness Our reall intention herein, so Wee shall no longer desire you to stand for the defence of Our Person, Honour, and just Prerogatives, than Wee shall maintain the Lawes of the Land, the Liberty of your persons, and the propriety of your Goods.

And for the cleere understanding of Our Resolutions to maintaine Peace, Wee may have the confidence and happinesse to referre (against all malignity whatsoever) to Our former sixteen yeeres Reign; (too long to dissemble Our Nature) if in all this time Wee never caused the effusion of one drop of blood, it must needs be thought, that in Our ripper judgement in Government, Wee should never open such Issues as might draw Vs and Our Posterity in them: But Wee are sure to have no enemies, but in the defence of the true Protestant Profession, the Right of the established Lawes, and for the preservation of peace: and certainly all these must be all yours, as well as Our enemies.

And to the end that this present Posture wherein Wee meet, should not affright you with the distempers of the times, the Example of the two Houses having made Vs prepare for a Guard to Vs and Our Childrens Persons, Wee with you to looke into the Composition and Constitution of it, and you will finde it so far from the face or fear of War, that it serves to secure you, as well as Vs, from it: For Our Choice is of the prime Gentry, and of one Regiment of Our Trained Bands, which cannot bee thought to oppress the Countrey (being their own) nor war with themselves. And Wee further assure you, Wee never intended to use Forreigners, or disaffected in Religion: and that you may fully assure your selves of Our sole dependancy upon the love and service of Our own people, to live and die with them, Wee have Armed these Our Subjects; which had been most irrationall, if Wee had ever intended to have used Strangers. And further, you may perceive that Wee receive none, but such as stand cleere in Loyalty and Religion, for which reason Wee have caused the Oathes of Allegiance and Supremacy to be given them. Likewise to prevent any distempers at home, Wee have, and shall put the Trained Bands of all this Our Kingdome under the Command of Persons of honour, confidence and affection to their Countrey: strictly charging, upon their Allegiance, no Officer to accept any command in them, nor Souldiers to obey any save such as are authorized by Vs, And for the prevention of any innovated power over you, you shall have Vs here to govern you, and the Souldiery to protect you in peace, and to relieve you against all oppressions; for that, as Wee have told you before, must arise from some great violation (which we hope God will prevent) and not from this preparation of Our Subjects. Therefore let none of you be affrighted with vaine feares; if such a Warre should follow, it follows the Authors home to their own doores: and such (by the confidence of Our Person with you) Wee assure Our Selfe you are not.

Here Wee had left you to your fidelity and duty, had not some malicious insolence in Our former meetings sent forth most presumptuous Summons, deceiving Our People, and presuming upon Our Royall Authority; and these present themselves as great Defenders of Religion, Peace, and Liberty; whereas they become infectious, and contagious to the people, seducing them into vaine fancies and delusions, as may appear by their Warrants which we could trace to some Pulpits, as Wee are credibly informed: And you see it were just in Vs, to punish these as Authours of sedition, but that it would be too great a favour, for it would honour them with the Title of Martyrdom, for Gods cause, as they vaineely pretend: But you may now see from whence this Spirit comes, that would make us to be in the Act of destruction of Religion, Our Person a disturber of the Peace, and ready to introduce Slavery. These here are all the forreigne Forces Wee have, or ever shall intend to have, to act these great designs, notwithstanding the vaine feares hitherto imagined. So that you see it is high time that these fancies were dispersed and driven away, that Wee might be repaired in Honour and Interest, and you enjoy the blessing of Peace and Happinesse; the advancement whereof shall be Our study and comfort: and therefore Wee shall (when you shall thinke it a convenient time) ease you in the number of the Trained Bands: And for your Billet-Money, it had been long since paid, but that no part of the Subsidies (which Wee passed for that purpose) came to Our hands, and Wee shall not be wanting in any thing that lyeth in Vs for the full satisfaction thereof: And shall make Our Grace and Bounty to you answerable to your best fidelity and loyalty, as occasion shall be offered to Vs.

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Lownes, 1642.